



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 3, 2008

S. 3103

International Space Station Payments Act of 2008

As reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on September 23, 2008

SUMMARY

S. 3103 would extend the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) authority to make payments to Russia, and under certain circumstances, to transport U.S. astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS). NASA's authority to make such payments expires on December 31, 2011. The bill would extend the authority until Orion (NASA's future space vehicle) or a similar U.S. commercial vehicle is available. Because NASA plans to retire its space shuttle at the end of 2010, the agency plans to use alternative means to transport crews to the ISS until new NASA vehicles are developed.

Based on information provided by NASA, CBO estimates that NASA would make payments to Russia of about \$330 million over the 2012-2013 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds for the transportation of six U.S. astronauts to the ISS each year. Enacting S. 3103 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 3103 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 3103 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 250 (science, space, and technology). For this estimate, CBO assumes that the necessary amounts will be appropriated each year for 2012 and 2013. CBO's estimate is based on the assumption that NASA would require Russian transport services through 2013. Additional funds may be required in subsequent years depending on NASA's capability to reach the ISS.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2009- 2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	0	0	165	165	330
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	165	165	330

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 3103 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

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